

First Lutheran Church

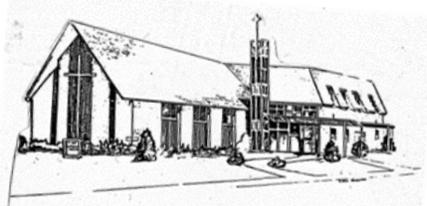
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June, 2020 – FLC Newsletter

Greetings FLC,

Happy June! We have been going through so much hustle and bustle that I haven't had time to reflect on a special celebration! April marked 140 years, how blessed we are?! What a reason to celebrate. Think back to the first worship service on March 7, 1880, of this brand new church gathering then called The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. What was going through the minds of those who gathered that morning? Would they meet again next week? Who read the first reading? Did they have a choir? Who preached the Word that day? What were the kids doing? It's not often that a church gets to celebrate such a beautiful history of 140 years. What a reason to be joyous and hopeful for the future! And, most of all, we get to celebrate that God is always working through us and within us.



June, the month that summer officially begins. Sunshine, walks outside, gardening, enjoying God's beautiful creation. Even as we tread these waters of uncertainty, I am happy to tread these waters with you FLC. You have been so encouraging, supportive and strong throughout this pandemic. I hope you all are doing well and keeping safe and know that we are finding ways to keep you updated and informed. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. We will get through this and we will be stronger because of it. Just like I said a few sermons ago, God makes promises and God keeps his promises. And his promise to you is real – whether you feel it or not. You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). This is the case if you feel fearfully made or just fearful. You are wonderfully made and loved unconditionally. May these words bring you comfort and peace as we journey through this pandemic together. Let us celebrate the wonderful things we are still doing, even while apart and let us celebrate 140 years of our amazing First Lutheran Church community!

God's Peace,

Pastor Chelsey Weech

A Special Prayer for Our Country

“O triune God, in whom Three are One, guide with your powerful mercy our troubled nation, where relationships are fractured and injustice marks the land. Heal our wounded people. Give hope to the despairing. Protect the protestors. Preserve our cities from more tumult, and keep away those intent on destruction. Guard stores and homes from fire, and save us from bloodshed. Help our police and National Guard as they stand against violence. Assist our president, our governors and our legislators in moving forward from a history of racism into a future of peace.”

First Lutheran's History

FLC began with the organizing of a congregation on March 7, 1880. On September 19, 1880 a special meeting was held to build a church at 217 Douglas Street. We were called The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church at that time. Swedish services were in the morning and English services in the evening. In 1923 Swedish was omitted from our church name. In 1930 Swedish services were discontinued in our 50th anniversary year.

Our Parsonage Story: Our first parsonage was built in 1900 next to our original church at 217 Douglas Street. The vacant lot next door was purchased for \$25 and the contract was let to Charlie Peterson.

The “new Parsonage” began in March, 1964 as a committee was formed and composed of Doug Jensen, John Albrecht Jr., Merle Strike, Jean Blair and Marjorie Gardner. The site of 321 West 2nd Street was chosen and purchased from Florence Roth for \$5,000. Work began on October 15, 1964 with the Sutton Brothers, Don and Chet, of Lyndon in charge. The estimated cost of the building was \$32,000. On March 1, 1965 Pastor Lawrence & Jenny Anderson and family moved into the new parsonage. The total cost of the structure including the surveying, insurance and utilities was \$35,993. This figure included a complete driveway and lawn which was not in the original plan.

(The above information was compiled by Carl O. Swanson and Lois Conklen.)

In March, 2019 the parsonage began its first major inside remodel since being built. The front door and window were replaced and the back door, kitchen cabinets and counters replaced, floors replaced and improved, bathrooms upgraded, extensive painting and other projects completed and cleaned. This all was completed on June 28, 2019 by our members who lent their time and talents, under our project leader Mark Melton. This year, 2020, marks that six Pastors and families have lived in the parsonage. It has served us well and will continue to for many, many more decades.

Prayer Concerns during May

Marilyn Melton, Ann Deck, Donna Roland, Sandy Plautz, Faye Finck, Betty Lou Olsen, Luanne McDivitt, Burdette Sandrock, Pete Frank, Carole & Dick Minssen, Pat Genung mother of Gayle Melton, Lee Ann Trexler sister of Kerry Meyer, Caleb Cleaver great nephew of Lynda & Larry VanDyke, Rick Chapman husband of Mindy Chapman, Scott Lyman son-in-law of Ken & Ellen Pannier.

Community Members: Randy Behrens, Kay Bolt, Darla Corbin, Phil Crossman, Sammy Hodgett, Mark Sandrock.

Serving in the Military: Charlie Davis grandson of Ken & Ellen Pannier, Brett Emery and Sean Pratt sons of Drew & Becky Emery, Donnie Appleman son-in-law of Larry & Lynda VanDyke, Lindsey Gardner niece of Gwen Gardner, Patrick Kelly grandson of Kathy Kelly, Anna Olsen wife of Kent Olsen, Max Sampson grandson and Kyle Ullmark grandson-in-law of Glenda Sampson, Madison Scace great granddaughter of Burdette & Dea Sandrock.

Prayers to Kathy Kelly & family on the passing of her son Steve Kelly.

Prayers to Geri Cassens & family on the passing of her brother-in-law Larry Berge.

Offerings of Love

FLC we love you all and are so proud to call all of you ours. We are aware of the economic impact that the Covid 19 shelter-in-place is having on many. We are so thankful for your continued generosity and encourage you to give as you are able. These offerings are being deposited weekly. You can mail your FLC giving to church at First Lutheran Church 300 W. 3rd Street Prophetstown, IL 61277. For online giving the details may be found on our website: www.firstlutheran-ptown.org

Look for the yellow box in the right column that says “New Online Giving” it will guide you through the steps. Thank you FLC!

Special Community Offerings

For the summer we have started to collect for different agencies in town. In May we collected offerings for the Prophetstown Food Pantry. FLC collected \$1,170 from your generous giving and FLC gave a matching up to \$1,000.

During the month of June we are having special offerings for Allure Nursing Home and Winning Wheels. For both of these collections FLC will match up to \$1,000.

Thank you to all who sewed face masks for Winning Wheels. Last week we donated 212 masks to Winning Wheels. This is more than enough for each resident and employee to receive a mask.

It is so wonderful that you all are helping to support our community.

Congratulations Graduates!!

PLT High School

Congratulations to our 2020 High School Seniors! We know this year has been difficult with the many changes, during this pandemic. We are so proud of each and every one of you. FLC is glad we could be a part of your faith journey. To take you down memory lane, here are the scripture passages you chose for your Confirmation Day.

Carsen Farral - Psalm 124:6-8

Kaitlin Hanrahan - Romans 6:23

Clayton Johnson - Philippians 4:13

Olivia Burgeson Miniell - Hebrews 13:5

Ross Purvis - Isaiah 43:1

Sean Sandrock - Proverbs 4:23

Samantha Soleta - Isaiah 40:31

PLT Middle School

Congratulations FLC eighth graders! We are so proud of you and all that you've accomplished in Middle School. We know you have worked so hard and will continue to achieve great things in High School.

“Take pride in how far you have come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey.” –by Michael Josephson

Kennedy Buck,

Owen Farral,

Nicole Plautz,

Olivia Purvis

CONGRATS
CLASS OF
2020

Scripture Readings for June

June 7th Holy Trinity

Genesis 1:1-3, 2:1-4, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

June 14th Second Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100, Romans 5:1-8,

Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21st Third Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-18,

Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

June 28th Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18,

Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:40-42

June Readers

June 7 – Ken Cocking

June 14 – Rick Woolums

June 21 – Jason Robshaw

June 28 – Orval Johnson

FLC Lawn Mowing: We are looking for someone to mow the church and the lot. Please contact Gary Hinrichs for details.

End of School Drive Thru!

On May 30th and May 31st we hosted a drive thru for grades preK-12th at the church. We packed some fun summer things and devotions for all ages. We wanted to take this time to say that we missed all of our youth! We know they were as sad as we were to cancel summer projects and activities, so we wanted a way to cheer them up with these summer goody bags. Youth and parents drove up the ramp at church and Christa Robshaw and Pastor Chelsey placed the child's bag of goodies in their trunk. We still kept social distancing in place, but it was wonderful to say hello and see familiar faces. We hope our youth have a blessed and safe summer!

June Birthday Celebrations

We wish to send a "Birthday Greeting" to all of our members celebrating this month. A special greeting is extended to our members who are 80 or over.

Marilyn Melton – 7th Kent Gibson – 9th
Marlene Scott – 16th Ken Cocking – 17th
Curt Plautz – 21st Lynn Gibson – 28th
Burnell Howlett – 30th

Please refer to your church directory for the entire birthday list of our members.

Thank You to FLAG and WELCA for suppling postage stamps for church. These past couple of months we have been mailing out the sermons to our members who do not have internet. So these stamps have been very useful. Thank you!

FLC Cancellations

Due to the current situation with Covid 19, shelter-in-place and the prediction of it making a comeback the following events have been cancelled at FLC. Please watch for any changes as we continue to honor and be in compliance with the regional authorities, as well as to protect the health of our members and community.

Cancellations

- All Church Events and Activities
- All Outside Groups Events
- All Use of the Building
- FLY Trip to Toledo, OH - July 19-24
- Community VBS July 27 – 31
- Arts, Crafts & Vendor Show – Nov. 7

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Mission Statement

First Lutheran Church welcomes all to worship by nurturing those in their Christian faith through Word and Sacrament and equipping them for service to others throughout their daily lives.

Core Values

1. There is only one God
2. We are gathered by Word and Sacrament
3. Acceptance of ALL God's people
4. Discipleship is a lifelong faith journey
5. We are called to serve

Contact Us

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